The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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There is nothing so powerful as truth; and often nothing so strange.

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ARE PEOPLE "EDUCATED" AGAINST SENATE?

Vice President Dawes, it is stated, will reopen his fight against the senate rules.

This official "stumped" the country before the last congress assembled, and subsided when the national lawmakers convened. It is regrettable he did not continue the contest when the senate was in session, and that the few senators who had previously declared for a revision of the rules, did not introduce a resolution to that effect. A discussion of the question would then acquaint the people with the fact that the senate rules permit debate to be closed whenever two-thirds of the members present so decide.

The public was not long enough before the senate. Now, when that body has adjourned, we are told the agitation will be renewed.

Under senate rule XXII, when 16 senators ask that debate on any pending measure close, the presiding officer shall at once state the motion, and one hour after the senate meets "on the following calender day but one" he shall order a roll call vote, without debate. If the motion is decided in the affirmative by a two-thirds vote of those voting "then said measure shall be the unfinished business to the exclusion of all other business until disposed of."

No senator shall be entitled to speak in all more than one hour on the pending measure, "the amendments thereto and motions affecting the same."

The public is not informed of rule XXII that whenever enforced, will permit a group of filibusterers to force only talk, a total of one hour each.

Why is the public led to believe that the senate is a group of talkative do-nothings?

Is it the purpose to bring our lawmaking branch into popular contempt? Is it planned to exalt the Mussolini theory of government?

BALDWIN PENNED "MEAN DOCUMENT"

London, England, Aug. 20.—Premier Baldwin's letter to America in which he minimizes the suffering of miners' families, is "the meanest document ever penned by a minister of the British government," said former Premier Lloyd George, following a private tour of the coal fields.

Premier Baldwin made the statement just as a delegation of British unionists started for America to solicit funds to aid the locked-out miners' dependents.

In a manifesto issued by the general council of the British Trades Union Congress and the Miners' Federation, the unionists say:

"Actual starvation has invaded the miners' homes. The women and children are suffering through the action of the poor law authorities, with the connivance of the government, in cutting down the scale of relief and through the curtailment of school meals. In trying to bring the miners into subjection the government has not scrupled to endeavor to check the generous impulses of the public in voluntarily subscribing to the relief funds by which the worst consequence of the tragedy in the coal fields have been partially alleviated."

BREAD TRUST LEGAL SAYS JUSTICE HEAD

Washington, Aug. 28.—The Department of Justice acknowledges that the anti-trust laws can not cope with such combinations as the "bread trust."

Attorney General Sargent says the laws should be amended—"if it is the desire of the country to prohibit all forms of combinations."

"The Ward Food Products case," he says, "illustrates the contention advanced in some quarters that the anti-trust laws need strengthening. The three constituent companies—Continental Baking Company, General Baking Corporation—and Ward Baking Corporation—control a considerable number of bakeries.

"To the extent that they have acquired those bakeries from others they have been careful to select plants so located that they do not serve the same territory in any substantial degree.

"The bringing of a considerable number of bakeries under a common control may be regarded as an undesirable thing. But there is nothing in the federal trust laws that prevents the combining of purely non-competitive units.. Hence, while the anti-trust laws were adequate to prevent a merger of the three great companies, they having many bakeries serving a common territory, such laws could not be invoked against such companies individually because of the evident care taken to avoid acquisition of competing bakeries."

PRIMARY BOODLE FUNDS HARM ELECTION SYSTEM

Washington, Aug. 28.— Excessive use of money in the Pennsylvania and Illinois primary elections has caused widespread discussion of this system. Political agents of big business urge a return to the old convention plan.

Many citizens, who forget the background of present primary laws, are unconsciously aiding the political agents, and the question promises to be one of major importance during the coming elections and the next congress adjourns next March.

President Green has warned citizens that the primary law "is not the best guarantee good government. "No political method can do that," he said. "The fundamentally important factor is the spirit of citizenry. Spirit is more than form.

"It is significant that those who raise the slogan, 'abolish the primary,' are the ones who have tried to corrupt it. Certainly their aims and whose motives can well be questioned.

"Rather than abolish the primary we need to educate our citizens to the responsibilities accompanying their privileges."

APPLES ROT ON TREES

Baltimore, Aug. 28.—Farmers along the Eastern Shore say low prices for apples will force them to let the fruit rot on the trees. Many growers have stopped picking apples.

Living Wage Theory Is Rejected; High Output Must Benefit Labor

Detroit, Mich., Aug. 28.—In awarding stereotypers a wage increase of $3.60 a week, Judge Frank Murphy of the Recorder's Court rejected the theory that living costs is the sole basis for wages.

He insisted that workers are entitled to a share in the increased productivity of a business. The newspaper publishers held that their business is not an issue and should not be considered.

"A study of general conditions throughout the country discloses general prosperity and high production, and in local newspaper business there is an obvious prosperity," said Judge Murphy.

"The present industrial organization of society is built upon the wage system, and as long as it survives it must justify itself by providing the wage earner with sufficient to live in a manner becoming to his dignity as a man. This is not accomplished by furnishing him with a mere subsistence.

"The gulf between a mere subsistence wage and a decent and comfortable living wage should broaden, and especially when the industry prospers is not imperilled, or in any way embarrassed, as in the present case.

"A wage is not a living wage unless through frugality a wage earner may earn sufficient to develop within reasonable limits his physical, spiritual, moral and intellectual faculties and in addition be able to set aside a reserve to provide for accident, old age, illness and misfortune.

"A living wage is not a mathematical certitude but in each instance is a practical judgment depending upon the conscience and fairness and vision of whoever declares it. In the present controversy, this court is not called to give more consideration to human welfare and the possibility of improving human co-operation between the stereotypers and publishers than in reaching some mathematical calculation of a living wage."

HAS JAPAN CHANGED EMIGRATION POLICY?

New York, Aug. 28.—Has Japan abandoned her attempt to colonize America and other English-speaking countries?

Tokio cables state that that government has reversed its emigration policy, and that all passports are suspended, and will henceforth send its excess population to Japanese possessions.

If the cables report correctly, it marks the end of a long struggle by Japanese to secure the right in Pacific coast states. Several of these states have made it unlawful to sell or lease land to anyone ineligible to citizenship. A recent act by congress, debarring entrance to this country of any one ineligible to citizenship, aroused a storm of protest in Japan. This was encouraged by business men who trade in the Far East, and by sentimentalists who believe the Oriental and the Occidental can dwell happily together without lowering the higher living standard.

Japan and its American friends have insisted that Japanese be admitted under the quota system of the immigration law. This, it is claimed, will soothe that country. No mention is made of admitting other Orientals, who are also ineligible for citizenship. This favoritism is explained by the claim that Japan's "feelings are hurt."

The purpose, of course, is to establish a precedent which can be enlarged in later years.

The Far East cable may be a hint to Japan's allies in the United States to cease their agitation for a losing cause.

BOSSES CRY "WOLF", OPPOSE SOCIAL LAWS

New York, Aug. 28.—Testifying before the State Industrial Survey Commission employers expressed alarm over social legislation that "would tax industry." Such proposals oppose a 48-hour work week for women, and also oppose a women's minimum wage law. They revamped the old argument of "injuring business," and ignored the experience of other employers that good working conditions is a profitable investment.

James A. Hamilton, State Industrial Commissioner, said industrial accidents and fatalities in this state are increasing. Last year there were 441,401 accident cases reported, against 374,212 the preceding year. Fatalities totaled 1,081, a gain of 98, over the preceding year.

John H. Frey, chairman of the state legislative committee of the State Federation of Labor, urged a state insurance fund to replace the workmen's compensation act. He said that the original hope of quick settlement of claims was not realized under private insurance companies.

CAR MEN AVERT STRIKE

New Orleans, Aug. 28.—A few hours before a strike order became effective, tentative agreement was reached by the traction company signed a three-year agreement. The contract provides that all employes in the departments concerned must become members of the union."

LAND SHARKS INDICTED

Jacksonville, Fla., Aug. 28.—An echo of Florida's frenzied land boom is the indictment by the grand jury of two score men who were engaged in a development scheme in the southern part of this state. It is charged that an investment of $100 in a land option rose to total sales of $10,000,000.

IRON WORKERS ADVANCE

Portland, Ore., Aug. 28.—An arbitration board has awarded wage increases to the Structural Iron Workers' Union. Rates are advanced from $9 to $10 a day and from $8 to $8.80 to reinforced workers.

EUROPEAN IRON TRUST MAY LENGTHEN HOURS

London, England, Aug. 19.—The Berlin correspondent of the Daily Herald, owned by the organized workers of Great Britain, predicts that there will be a lengthening of hours, and an offensive for the nine-hour day dragging down even farther the low living standard of Continental labor.

The countries represented in the trust are Germany, France, Belgium and Luxembourg. The only present Great Britain is outside the combine because its colonies are not recognized.

The correspondent says it is rumored that the combine "has received the blessings of the United States steel trust."

Under the terms of the agreement the international pig iron and crude steel market is divided into "spheres of influence." Each national group is guaranteed a practical monopoly within their territories. Prices are fixed but may be lowered in agreement, and at the expense of, the combine whenever any competition warrants such a measure.

"The combine assumes undisputed control of prices on the continent," the correspondent says. "The four parties to the pact need no longer fear the dumping tactics of their neighbors. Export prices, hitherto in many instances below the domestic level, will come up with it."

"Simultaneously the monopoly-protected inland prices will also be raised, giving up in turn the manufactured product, and ending in a general price increase. German heavy industry, especially, hit hard hitherto by Pfennig dumping, will profit from the pact in its exports and, secure in the protection of an efficient tariff wall, will blackmail the working classes."

IS PEONAGE BEHIND PUBLICITY STUNT?

Washington, Aug. 28.—Publicity agents assure the country that Moros, living in the southern portion of the Philippine islands, want to sever connections with the Philippines and come directly under control of the United States congress.

It is significant that this is the position of rubber barons, and the Bacon bill, now pending in congress. The Philippine legislature does not permit workers to be a party to a labor contract over one year. This makes the establishment of peonage rather difficult. Under the Bacon bill the rubber barons would have less to fear from investigators on the other side of the world.

The alleged love the Moros have for the United States may be part of the propaganda in favor of the Bacon bill, which will be considered by the incoming congress. The measure failed of passage at the last session.

CAN'T PENALIZE UNIONS

Los Angeles, Aug. 28.—A. F. of L. President Green informs the Central Labor Council that the organization for non-payment of per capita tax can not be penalized if they would reaffiliate. A local, however, can be required to pay all indebtedness before it is readmitted. Delegates called Green's visit to be executive council decision covering such cases.

"While we urge, plead with and encourage local unions to become affiliated with the state federations and central bodies," he said, "we can not compel them to do so. The whole movement of organized labor is based upon the principle of voluntarism."

TO REVISE WAGE ORDER

Vancouver, B. C., Aug. 28.—The minimum wage board will reconsider its order dealing with the canning industry, following strong protests by the Trades and Labor Council.

Loewe, Danbury Hatter, Bankrupt; Famous Anti-Union Suit Recalled

Danbury, Conn., Aug. 28.—D. E. Loewe & Co., famous non-union hat manufacturer, is bankrupt.

The plant is closed and Dietrich E. Loewe, head of the concern, who was dined and feted by manufacturers' associations and chambers of commerce, has been confined to his home for several months by illness. The firm's liabilities total $240,000 and suggestions are made that the creditors accept a 60 per cent settlement. A portion of the factory has been rented by a union hat manufacturer to handle his increased business.

Little publicity is given the collapse of this concern that was in the forefront of a country-wide anti-union campaign for a quarter of a century ago. Loewe's leading attorney was Walter Gordon Merritt, whose family was connected with the C. H. Merritt Hat Company, the cheapest non-union hat plant in Danbury, and which has also passed from the industrial stage.

The Hatters' union attempted to unionize the Loewe concern. Loewe refused to recognize the union and the hatters asked organized labor to not buy that product. In September, 1903, Loewe filed suit against the union in the Connecticut federal district court. He asked $80,000 damages, which would be threefold under the Sherman anti-trust law. A state court levied on the hatters' homes and their bank accounts. This levy was under an antiquated Connecticut law which permitted attachment before judgment was rendered.

The A. F. of L. took up the fight, which was carried to the United States Supreme Court. When the decision was affirmed the A. F. of L. issued an appeal for funds to pay the judgment and $222,911.20 was raised. As a result of the agitation the A. F. of L. secured the passage of the Norris amendment to the anti-trust law.

WANT STATE PRINT PLANT

Hibbing, Minn., Aug. 28.—Printer delegates to the State Federation of Labor convention here reaffirmed their demand for a state-owned printing plant.

DR. ELIOT, EDUCATOR, IS DEAD; CALLED STRIKEBREAKER HERO

Boston, Aug. 28.—Dr. Charles William Eliot, for 40 years president of Harvard University, died in his summer home in Maine. He was 92 years of age. In 1909 he resigned as president and became president emeritus.

His success as an educator and scholar did not continue when he entered the economic field and discussed labor problems. He was subjected to sharp attacks by organized labor. In 1902 he classed the strikebreaker as "a hero," and in 1904 said that trade unionism brought "less liberty than the American enjoyed in 1776."

The Boston Central Labor Union challenged him to a joint debate and the unionists selected Frank K. Foster, a member of the Typographical Union, to discuss this question: "Resolved, that the non-unionist has the moral right to work, how, when and where he pleases." Foster took the negative.

Dr. Eliot's affirmative was never published, but the American Federation of Labor still circulates Foster's repudiation of strikebreaking morality.

With his logic, his invective, idealism and appeals to every recognized moral code, Foster riddled Dr. Eliot's defense of the strikebreaker and non-unionist.

"The trade union cordially welcomes the scrutiny of economic students and the criticism of honest and fair-minded men," said Foster, in closing his speech. "It has even tolerance for those dilettante and superior people who examine its structure as much the same spirit that they do through a microscope at the antennae of a rare bug or at some new species of mollusk brought up from the depths of the ocean.

"The trade union says, 'In union is strength.' The 'moral' strikebreaker replies, 'In disunion is morality.'

"The trade union says, 'We owe each other a duty.' The strikebreaker says, 'Temporary self-interest is stronger than duty.'

"If there be such a thing as moral responsibility, it should prevent a man from heaping up the burdens upon the shoulders of those who do the hard work of the world; it should appeal to his sense of chivalry not to interfere with the uplifting of little children; it should debar him from playing the part of the sycophant and mercenary in the greatest struggle of the century in which we live.

"Yet the non-unionist who works how, when and where he pleases, does all these things and more.

"Clothe him, if your heart so moves, with the name of hero, adorn him with Philistine approval, but shame on the hypocrisy that seeks to cover his moral nakedness with the stolen garment of righteousness."

ROOT WILL DECIDE LONG UNION DISPUTE

New York, Aug. 28.—Hon. Elihu Root, former secretary of state, will act as chairman of a tribunal of three which will decide the jurisdictional dispute between the International Union of Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers and the Operative Plasterers' International Association of the United States and Canada.

President Bowen of the bricklayers and President McGivern of the plasterers will each appoint a member of the board.

MANY PEOPLE STUNG BY LAND PROMOTERS

New York, Aug. 28.—The Better Business Bureau reports that wonderful land developments around Muscle Shoals is another proof that the American public still seem ready to fling their money into any project.

According to an investigator the bureau sent to Muscle Shoals, this much advertised "city" is a municipality in "legal form only" but as to population it is a "hoax."

Sites on paper are designated for sundry "high sounding" purposes. A plat of one promoter shows a university, another a library and other public buildings, while the central park is on as fancy dictates. One so-called business center is on a densely wooded hillside, 11 miles from the center of Sheffield, Ala. Other lots are represented to be near docking facilities, although they are five miles from the river. Again the vendors say their properties are near national highways when such roads are two miles away.

The report states that "it is difficult to see how many school teachers, ministers, laborers, domestics, and perhaps widows and orphans, who have made their accumulations of years into lots at Muscle Shoals, can avoid tragic losses."

JUSTICE COSTS TOO MUCH

New York, Aug. 28.—Justice in our courts costs too much, says H. H. Nordlinger, lawyer of this city, writing in the American Bar Association Journal.

"If the law is to give a remedy for every wrong," says the lawyer, "it should give an adequate remedy for the wrong of compelling a man to hire a lawyer, collect evidence and go to court to establish the right. It should really adequate costs to the prevailing party would not increase the cost of justice—it would reduce it, so far as possible, to the guilty instead of the innocent party."

PRESSMEN DEDICATE WAR MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Pressmen's Home, Tenn., Aug. 28.—The convention of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America dedicated a chapel in memory of their 111 American and Canadian members who fell in the world war. The memorial has a seating capacity of 100 persons.

Pressmen's Home is owned by the union. It is an old Tennessee estate of 2,500 acres. The union maintains a home for its aged and infirm, a sanitarium, a technical trade school and a modern hotel.

TEXTILE BARONS REJECT UNIONISM; LONG PASSAIC STRIKE TO CONTINUE

Passaic, N. J., Aug. 28.—Botany Mills and Forstmann & Huffman Company, the two largest corporations affected by the seven-month textile strike, have declared their opposition to the regular trade union movement. Locals of the United Textile Workers, affiliated to the A. F. of L., are being organized, but the textile barons insist on "yellow dog" contracts and company "unions."

Vice President Johnson of Botany Mills, and spokesman for mill owners, let it be known that their opposition to unionism is not confined to the regular United Textile Workers.

"We have said frankly to the representatives of the A. F. of L." he said, "that the situation was not one in which their services could be helpful." At present Botany has 400 strikebreakers. Usually the mill employs 6,000 workers.

Strikers are joining the United Textile Workers by the thousands as the textile barons reveal their purpose to establish peonage.

President McMahon of the legitimate textile union said that the mill owners' declaration "that their employes may not affiliate with any organization without consulting the mill owners is feudalism and makes peons of the workers.

"Was the high protective tariff created to give Mr. Forstmann and those like him a title with him the right to take from the American consuming public large profits while they keep workers in pauperism?" asked Mr. McMahon.

Unionists and sympathizers are preparing to arouse a greater interest in the strike and to expose the hypocrisy of the textile barons.

STAGE HANDS WANT MORE

New York, Aug. 28.—Organized stage employes are asking for wage increases. The new minimum would be $7 a day instead of $5.

STRIKE IS NOT A PARTY; PLAIN TALK PERMITTED

Charleston, W. Va., Aug. 28.—In refusing to enjoin union printers from surrounding non-unionists, to leave the employment of two struck newspaper plants, Common Pleas Judge Owen distinguished between intimidation and strong argument by earnest-minded men.

The printers suspended work on failure to secure wage increases, following months of negotiations.

"You gentlemen who have charge of this strike," said Judge Owen, "will realize that you can use persuasion, but this persuasion must come within the limits and within the meaning of these words. You need not limit your persuasion to drawing room talk or language. You are entitled to use vigorous, forceful, strong and convincing language. Convincing argument and language is never abuse."

AMERICA'S MILITARY POWER WILL BE HELD BY UNCLE SAM

Geneva, Aug. 28.—The United States will not agree to international control of disarmament or to an international general staff that will sit in judgment on a nation's military powers.

Other nations that take the same position are Great Britain, Japan, Italy, Chile and Sweden, and the hope of a superbody that will tell a country what military strength it may maintain has gone glimmering.

The six nations took this action after a majority of the military disarmament commission, which is preparing a program for the proposed disarmament conference, advocated a permanent body for the collation and publication of armament information, with the right to decide whether a country's armament showed an aggressive or defensive tendency.

The six dissenting nations gave an insight into secret diplomacy. They expressed the opinion that members of such commission would be influenced by political considerations which would hamper an impartial inquiry.

It was also deemed possible that one country might bring a charge against another for the purpose of obtaining information about secret defensive organizations of the country accused.

UNION ENTERS TRADE TO COMBAT EMPLOYERS

Oakland, Cal., Aug. 28.—Organized carpenters have formed a company in this city to supply material to contractors who decline to be dictated to by the anti-union Industrial Association and its allies.

The carpenters' move is a frontal attack on business men who believe they can compel contractors to do their bidding by refusing to sell them material unless they adopt the so-called "American" plan of individual bargaining. The new company has installed a fleet of motor trucks and moving cranes. Other yards are established and the unionists have dealt an unexpected blow to opponents.

The Industrial Association continues its use of armed thugs to assault and intimidate organized workers. This has been denounced so often by the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco city and county, and various courts, that the police no longer treat obviously the anti-unionists' "law and order" plea.

In an injunction suit, filed in Superior Judge Herzinger's court, one officer of the Industrial Association acknowledged that the "permit" system, which prevents union contractors from purchasing building material, was an attack on organized carpenters. These workers have been on strike since last April to establish the right of bargaining collectively.

CONVICT LABOR MAY END IN ALABAMA COAL MINES

Montgomery, Ala., Aug. 28.—A local newspaper says the first bill to be introduced in the state legislature will provide for the removal of convicts in Alabama coal mines. Colonel Bibb Graves, the next governor, is pledged to this policy.

The convict labor system has been an issue in this state since the death last year, of a convict who died after being "docked" in a vat of water at the Flat Top mine as a punishment. Warden Davis and several others connected with the case are under indictment, charged with murdering the prisoner.

FARM LAND ABANDONED

New York, Aug. 28.—More than 6,000,000 acres of land have been abandoned in this state, G. C. Warren of Cornell University told the State Industrial Survey Commission. He said the better wages and educational and health advantages in the city prompted the desertion. Prices of farm products in the state buy this land for re-forestation.

WOLL RE-ELECTED

Philadelphia, Aug. 28.—Matthew Woll was re-elected president of the International Photo Engravers' Union at their convention here. Mr. Woll is fifth vice president of the A. F. of L. The convention has re-elected Secretary-Treasurer Schmal.

MINE CHIEF RESENTS ATTACK ON WAGE RATE

Washington, Aug. 28.—John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, has attacked a report of an examiner of the Interstate Commerce Commission, who favors higher freight rates to non-union coal operators because of union wages in organized fields.

Union coal operators of Indiana asked for a freight rate reduction of 25 cents a ton, contending that West Virginia and Kentucky fields have advantageous rates.

The commission referred the matter to Examiner Disque, who held that present rates are not unfair. He described wages of Indiana miners as a "so much higher than in non-union fields in other states" that operators "are having great difficulty in meeting their competitors' prices."

In a letter to the Interstate Commerce Commission, President Lewis said: "I have never understood it to be any part of the functions of the commission to attempt to batter down the wages of those who labor. Neither have I understood it to be the function of the commission to permit its decisions and rules and rate questions to be made the vehicle by either party to an industrial wage controversy, as is the case in this instance."

President Lewis pointed out that existing wages were fixed by the United States Bituminous Coal Commission in 1920. He said it was "extraordinary indeed that an official representative of the Interstate Commerce Commission would openly denounce the wage scale that was formulated and handed to the industry by another government agency."

ORNBURN NEW CHIEF

Chicago, Aug. 28.—First Vice President Ornburn of the Cigarmakers' International Union has been elected president of that organization by a referendum vote. He succeeds George W. Perkins, who has held the office for years and is one of America's trade union veterans. He has declined to be a candidate for president, but he will remain in active work as a V. P. of L. Recently he submitted to a major operation, which was successful.

COTTON STRIKE FAVORED

Washington, Aug. 28.—United States Senator Heflin favors a strike of cotton growers. He has called on southern farmers, merchants, bankers, mills and notify the cotton-buying world that no more of this year's crop will be sold under 20 cents a pound.

OBJECT TO CONVICT MINERS

Lexington, Mo., Aug. 28.—Officers of the State Federation of Labor and the United Mine Workers are protesting to state officials against the use of convicts in state-leased mines.

A. F. of L. President Green has joined in the protest.